IN THE CLAIMS

The following includes the entire set of pending claims with mark-ups.

Please amend Claims 1 and 2.

Please add Claims 6-10.

1. (currently amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system provided in association with a vehicle seat for preventing a vehicle occupant from slipping forward under a seat belt in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash, comprising:

a pair of fixed support members attached to either side of a seat frame at a front part of a seat bottom;

an arm pivotally attached to a front end of each of said fixed support members;

a cross member extending between free ends of said arms; and

a power unit provided in association with at least one of said support members for actuating said arms and cross member upward so as to selectively raise a front part of said seat bottom in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash;

~~said cross member comprising an energy absorbing structure adapted to undergo a controlled deformation under a load occurring as said front part of said seat bottom is raised~~

wherein said cross member comprises a pipe member including a feature for controlling a mode of deformation of said pipe member as said pipe member is actuated upward to restrain the vehicle occupant in an impact situation.

2. (currently amended) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 1, wherein ~~said energy absorbing structure comprises~~ a relatively deformable member is placed over said ~~cross~~ pipe member.

3. (canceled)

4. (canceled)

5. (canceled)

6. (new) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 1, wherein said feature comprises a slot or hole formed in said pipe member.

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7. (new) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 1, wherein said feature comprises a notch formed in said pipe member.

8. (new) A vehicle occupant restraint system provided in association with a vehicle seat for preventing a vehicle occupant from slipping forward under a seat belt in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash, comprising:

a pair of fixed support members attached to either side of a seat frame at a front part of a seat bottom;

an arm pivotally attached to a front end of each of said fixed support members;

a cross member extending between free ends of said arms; and

a power unit provided in association with at least one of said support members for actuating said arms and cross member upward so as to selectively raise a front part of said seat bottom in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash;

wherein said cross member comprises a pipe member having a flattened surface for engaging the vehicle occupant.

8/1 Cont.

9. (new) A vehicle occupant restraint system according to claim 8, wherein said pipe member is provided with a depending flange extending in parallel with said pipe member.

10. (new) A vehicle occupant restraint system provided in association with a vehicle seat for preventing a vehicle occupant from slipping forward under a seat belt in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash, comprising:

a pair of fixed support members attached to either side of a seat frame at a front part of a seat bottom;

an arm pivotally attached to a front end of each of said fixed support members;

a cross member extending between free ends of said arms; and

a power unit provided in association with at least one of said support members for actuating said arms and cross member upward so as to selectively raise a front part of said seat bottom in an impact situation such as a vehicle crash;

wherein said cross member comprises a pipe member adapted to undergo a controlled deformation under a load occurring as said front part of said seat bottom is raised, and further wherein a relatively deformable member is included inside said pipe member.

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